



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

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STEPTOE ANNOUNCES THE AVAILABILITY OF \$99 MILLION IN SECTION 515 RURAL RENTAL HOUSING PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

Morgantown, WV – March 24, 2006: Rural Development State Director Robert M. Steptoe, III, today announced the availability of \$99 million nationwide in Section 515 Rural Rental Housing funds, \$25,740,000 of which is available for new construction on a national competitive level.

Section 515 Rural Rental Housing program funds are used to make loans to any individual, corporation, association, trust, Indian tribe, public or private nonprofit organization, consumer cooperative, or partnership to provide rental or cooperative housing and related facilities in rural areas for very-low, low or moderate income persons or families, including elderly persons and persons with disabilities.

The deadline for submitting an application is May 19, 2006. “Individual loan requests may not exceed \$1 million and West Virginia can receive up to \$2.5 million. So I urge all eligible applicants to submit their applications as soon as they can,” stated Steptoe.

Further information on the Rural Rental Housing (RRH) Program and application requirements can be found in the Monday, March 20, 2006 Federal Register at <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20061800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2006/06-2450.htm>, on USDA Rural Development’s website at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/> or by contacting the West Virginia Rural Development State Office at 75 High Street, Suite 320, Morgantown, WV 26505-7500, telephone (304) 284-4872, fax (304) 284-4893 or TTY/TDD (304) 284-4836.

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Further information on USDA Rural Development may be obtained by visiting USDA’s web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>. In West Virginia, call 1-800-295-8228 to be put in touch with the appropriate personnel serving your county. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA’s TARGET Center at 202.720.2600 (voice and TDD).

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